

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the use of (hydroxyalkyl)urea and (hydroxyalkyl)amide in aqueous-based polymer compositions to maintain  
5 hydration of said composition. Maintenance of hydration improves properties such as freeze/thaw stability, stability of the polymer composition, retardation of evaporation from the composition, and retardation of evaporation from wetted articles containing said polymer composition.